

We claim:

1        A method in a computer system for enabling the development of installation software, the method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one question definition screen;

5        entering at least one question on at least one generated question definition screen to solicit information from a user;

identifying at least one question answer type for the at least one entered question;

10       determining whether additional information is necessary to install the software;

if additional information is necessary, providing links to next questions to solicit additional information; and

if additional information is not necessary, storing the at least one entered question.

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2.       The method of claim 1, including encrypting the stored at least one entered question

3.       The method of claim 1, including the step of:

20       saving the at least one question prior to a determination that additional information is not necessary.

4.       The method of claim 1, including the step of:

25       providing links to help files, wherein such help files assist the user in providing at least one response.

5.       The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing at least one default response for the at least one question.

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6.       The method of claim 4, including the step of:

emailing a question to a help reference.

7. An apparatus for enabling the development of installation software wizards, comprising:  
at least one memory;  
at least one executable file stored in the at least one memory;  
5 the at least one executable file comprising at least one instruction for providing at least one question definition screen;  
at least one monitor;  
at least one processing unit capable of executing the at least one instruction to display the at least one question definition screen to at least one  
10 user on the at least one monitor;  
at least one input device capable of receiving information regarding at least one question from the at least one user; and  
a compiler to compile all the received information, wherein the received information is saved

15 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one memory, the at least one monitor, the at least one processing unit, the at least one input device, and compiler are coupled by at least one of a bus protocol, a wireless protocol, an intranet protocol, an extranet protocol, and html protocols.

20 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one memory comprises at least one help file.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one processing  
25 unit includes a security module.

11. A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to develop installation software wizards, the  
30 computer usable medium comprising:  
a question generation module configured to generate at least one question definition screen;

a receiving module configured to receive at least one question designed to solicit information from a user;

a determining module configured to determine whether additional information is need for the software installation;

5 a linking module configured to provide links to next questions if additional information is determined to be need; and

a saving module configured to save the at least one received question.

10 12. The computer program product of claim 11, comprising:  
an encryption module configured to provided encryption.

13. The computer program product of claim 11, comprising:  
a help module configured to provide help relating to the at least one question.

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14. A method of installing software on a computer system, the method comprising the steps of

identifying at least one software package to be installed;

executing at least one installation application associated with the at

20 least one identified software package to be installed,

displaying at least one question to solicit information from at least one user to install the software package,

storing the solicited information;

25 determining whether a next question exists based on the received solicited information;

displaying the next question if a next question exists; and

installing the at least one software package is a next question does not exist.

30 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:  
providing help regarding the at least one question;

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:  
saving the solicited information prior to installing the at least one  
software package.

5 17. A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied  
therein for processing data to install software, the computer usable medium  
comprising:  
an identifying module configured to identify at least one software  
10 package to be installed,  
an executing module configured to execute at least one installation  
application associated with the at least one identified software package to be  
installed;  
a displaying module configured to generate a display to solicit  
15 information from at least one user to install the software package;  
a storing module configured to store the solicited information;  
a determining module configured to determine whether additional  
information is to be solicited; and  
an installation module configured to install the at least one software  
20 package when the determining module determines additional information is not  
to be solicited.

25 18. The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising:  
a security module configured to provide encryption.

19. The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising:  
a help module configured to provide help information relating to  
solicited information.

30 20. The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising:  
a save module configured to save solicited information relating to the  
installation.